

[Crosstalk]

Charlie White:

This notice that was – that some of the brothers have seen – if any of the brothers haven't seen it, they are places that – they are plants where Dave Ericson did not get around to see. But at the time when this letter was sent to Bob Scott, at the time that this notice was printed, as secretary at the present time I was advised from Brother Scott that there were 750 of these notices sent to me for distribution over his signature. At that particular time, when we received the notification from our general president advising us that we would conduct our own election we felt and the executive board felt at that time that we should send our own notices out on our own paper over the signature of the secretary treasurer at that particular time, which was myself. That was the notice, the official notice that was sent to you direct to your homes. If any member didn't receive one, it was because we do not have his correct address.

This notice that Brother Bob Scott submitted here – and I must read it for the simple reason that it states in here that he has certain instructions which – of which authority, I don't know where he gets it from. But it starts off: "A special nominating meeting of Teamsters Local 514 will be held in the Ukrainian Labor Center." I don't know where he got the name of the labor center. This is not a labor center, is it? The address is given. "On Friday the 30th, 1959 at the hour of 8:00 PM. Every member sure then must attend this very important meeting. It is to your interest as a member. Much has transpired within your local union during the past few weeks, and in order to clear up the situation our brothers in Saskatchewan, Joint Council number 90, has been instructed to arrange and call an election meeting of Local 514. As secretary treasurer of Joint Council number 90, I have also been instructed to supervise the affairs of Local 514 until the election has been conducted and the officers have been installed. Under these instructions, January 30, 1959 has been set for the nominating meeting and the election date will be announced at this meeting. Nominations will be open for the following positions: –" they are all listed – "president, recording secretary, vice president, secretary treasurer, one three-year trustee, one two-year trustee, and one one-year trustee –" which is not constitutional. The constitution clearly states that no office shall be elected – no member shall be elected to office under a period of three years.

It goes on to say that "A full discussion of the union affairs – the union's affairs and position will take place at this meeting with representatives of the International Union, Western Conference of

Teamsters, and Joint Council 90 in attendance. Once again, it is extremely important that every member attend these two meetings. This should take precedence over all other matters of the above-mentioned date – on the above-mentioned date. Fraternally yours, R. Scott, Secretary Treasurer, Kingston Joint Council 90."

Now, brothers, I ask you: Of the information, we do not have any information whatsoever contrary to what we have already told you, so we shall not carry on the affairs of the local, that Brother Scott has taken it into his own hands to tell you people what you will do, not your own local union executive board. The reason that they're not here tonight, I cannot say. I cannot say; I can only surmise. And I would only be thinking out aloud when I tell you that I think that due to the fact that the general president has advised us that we should carry out our own business that maybe these people have thought that they'd better stay at home, because we were told by Brother Scott that Brother Lou Hawkins, who is the head of the National Warehousing Division of the International Brotherhood would be here in attendance at this meeting. Brother Charles Gower, Secretary Treasurer of the Joint Council of number 36 in Vancouver would be in attendance and Brother Scott would be in attendance. But they are not here, are they?

Audience: Why?

Charlie White: I cannot answer that question, brother. I do not know why. I've only tried to explain to you the action that they have tried to take against this local union – for whatever purpose, I do not know. I have no clue whatsoever as to what their motive or purpose was. But whatever it is, it couldn't have been true – a true and democratic purpose when they are not here to answer the questions that you are thinking of right now. Thank you, Brother chairman.

[Applause]

Walter Doskoch: Brothers, there's one point I'd like to clarify on this question that Dave Graham said that this meeting was rigged for the 30th. Well, I'll tell you what happened. There was a meeting – there were some allegations laid against Chuck Palmer. Now, at this meeting Brother Gower was in attendance, Brother Jim Scott was in attendance, and Brother Bob Scott. This was on the 13th day of January. And at this meeting this was the same time that the board was handing down a decision, and at the same time that we'd had a wire from the general president that the local was no longer under trusteeship. And after the meeting Brother Gower, Brother Scott, and Brother Bob Scott out of Calgary issued a statement to the

press at an executive meeting held on the 19th or the 21st – I forget which day. We asked Bob Scott, "How come the press got ahold of this date, the 30th of the month?" Bob Scott said, "I must have slipped." He says, "Anyway, it's been agreed on now between Brothers White, Palmer, and myself because of the advertising in the newspaper that the meeting would be on the 30th we'll hold it on the 30th." And it was because of this and because of lack of understanding on Dave Graham's part that he turned around and walked right out of this meeting without even waiting for one explanation. That's all I wanted to say on that for now, Brother chairman.

Fred Palmer:

That's right, brothers. Now, we have – the executives have set the meeting for the 26th tentatively, subject to further discussion with other officials, brothers, and so on. But in view of the fact that the papers and the radios and the televisions said the meeting was being called for the 30th, and after discussion with Brother Scott in Calgary, we said, "Okay, that's one thing we can agree on. Let's hold it on the 30th because the members know now that it's going to be held on the 30th." We have at all times tried to work in the best interest of the membership.

I don't think we need to dwell on this particular issue much farther than this unless brothers on the floor have any further question. Yes?

Audience:

I have a question. *[Inaudible]* to the extent that what took place here I want to know what was in the mind of the people who walked out? What was their...what were they trying to prove by working out. Because there is such a thing as a _____ trying to *[inaudible]* or in the union. What's the basic grounds on being able to do that *[inaudible]*.

Fred Palmer:

Well, I feel it's just a group of people that do not want to sit down and reason things out and discuss the situation. Their heart is not in the problem, or else they would have sat down and tried to reason the situation out. But the fact that Brother Graham and Brother Ericson took the lead and marched them out of here, I think, is just the same thing that a bunch of lemmings do or the Pied Piper situation. That's all it is.

Audience:

On this question of Dave Graham, according to the constitution there, was he out of order? It states that two years is *[inaudible]*.

Fred Palmer:

A minimum of two years.

Audience: All right. *[Inaudible]*

Fred Palmer: Well, that's what we tried to tell them.

Audience: Okay. *[Inaudible]*

Charlie White: Brother chairman, I'm sure I –

Audience: I think what Brother Graham is trying to – Brother Ericson is trying to prove is that he told us that if he wasn't secretary of this union he'd break with this union. I think that's just what he's trying to prove tonight.

Fred Palmer: Could be.

Charlie White: Well, brother chairman – I'm sorry, brother, you go ahead – the point I wanted to – it's no reflection on the employees of Motor Truck Express. I'm going to bring that name out and I don't want these brothers here to feel that I'm going to cast any aspersions on those in attendance. But I can only say this, brothers, that Brother – I can't call him a brother at this time, David Ericson's son-in-law worked at Motor Truck Express, and this problem didn't just start just recently. This problem started six or eight months ago when the trustees of this local union started to ask a few questions about the financials of the local union as far as Brother Ericson was concerned. And when Brother Ericson refused to answer them and it appeared that he was going to be started to be put on the spot that he has made moves through his son-in-law to disrupt the fellas that are employed by Motor Truck Express with the view and the purpose of pulling them out of the union, because we know that a petition went to the international headquarters requesting that they be transferred from Local 514 to Local 987 in Calgary, which is under the jurisdiction of Bob Scott. So, figure it out for yourself, because the majority – 95 percent of the employees that left here tonight were Motor Truck Express employees. I could stand corrected, but I think that is fairly close to it.

[Crosstalk]

Audience: *[Inaudible]*

Fred Palmer: Well, it would be pretty hard to check their names.

Audience: *[Inaudible]*

Fred Palmer: Well –

Audience: [Inaudible]

Fred Palmer: Well, we can do that on your way out. You can check out again. And I don't know just what purpose you might have in mind for that, brother.

Audience: No, but I believe there's lots of guys that left without no reason, just [inaudible]. No reason, because his friend was walking out, so he had to go with him. So, that's why it's why it's pretty hard to know which [inaudible].

Audience: I don't think that makes too much difference. As a matter of record, as well as the possibilities here, I think those names should be recorded and we should check people. And anybody who has a legitimate reason would refrain from coming forward, if they have a good reason for having walked, they can [inaudible].

Fred Palmer: Well, if that is the wishes of the brothers here tonight –

Audience: I move for that plan, that all members be checked as they go out and we try to engage the members that walked out [inaudible].

Fred Palmer: We have a motion that the brothers that are here now be checked on the way out so we know who has left this meeting?

Audience: I'll second.

Fred Palmer: _____ seconded. Ready for a discussion.

Brother Rinn: [Inaudible]

Fred Palmer: Would you get to the microphone please, Brother Rinn?

Brother Rinn: As far as these guys that [inaudible].

Fred Palmer: Well, yes, brother?

Audience: [Inaudible]

Audience: [Inaudible]. The brother here referred to [inaudible]. I wouldn't say [inaudible]. I agree they [inaudible] and try to talk to them and try to figure out are we going to do this? The only place you should ever do any business is right here. Not walking around at beer parties or any other place. [Inaudible] because of the responsibility

under the scholarship – under the sponsorship of the company. I don't believe –

Fred Palmer: Exactly. Excuse me, brother. Is that the meeting you're referring to where Brother Ericson –?

Audience: Brother Ericson's.

Fred Palmer: – Brother Ericson attended this meeting? Yes. Go ahead.

Audience: Because the – one of the company managers was there and *[inaudible]* in the conversation and _____ it and – I don't agree with the company being in on the – a union meeting in that place. It's the wrong place. And I don't think it should have any business with *[inaudible]* whether we have grievance or discussion *[inaudible]* at that meeting. But I didn't take much active part in it. But I didn't get *[inaudible]* because I know the only place you can learn anything is at a meeting and I intend to stay at every meeting that I ever go to and nobody's going to take me out unless they carry me out.

[Applause]

Fred Palmer: Any further discussion on the motion?

Audience: Question.

Fred Palmer: The question being called, all in favor say aye.

[Audience responds "aye."]

Opposed, no?

[No audible "no" votes.]

Carried. So ordered.

Audience: Mr. Chairman, I only have one question and it's more _____ tonight *[inaudible]*. Are you going to hold *[inaudible]* contract signed from *[inaudible]*.

Fred Palmer: You're dealing with specifically with your problems at you own particular plant, are you, as to whether negotiations will be carried out?

Audience: *[Inaudible]*

Fred Palmer: Well, I can tell you this. We have certainly done everything in our power to try and carry out a properly nomination meeting and a proper election as quickly as possible in view of the fact that the Board of Industrial Relations has taken the action of suspending us our certificates in six companies. Now the sooner we can get this stuff behind us, the sooner we can get down to brass tacks and go back to lifting these suspensions, which I'm quite sure we can do once the elections are behind us.

Now, with the action that was taken tonight by Brother Ericson and others I'm not so sure just what the view of the Board of Industrial Relations is going to be. They may be inclined to listen to that side of the story because they have in the past at all times under pressure from management's legal advisors. But we will take this manner in hand and do the best possible job that we can to bring the – about the election and carry it out in accordance with the constitution and to settle down to business and take up the question of these suspensions.

Now, I think at this point we should go ahead with the other business at hand. We have tentatively agreed to the election date of February the 16th.

Charlie White: Recommendation from the president.

Fred Palmer: That is the recommendation from our general president and the executive have concurred in the recommendation. And we would call for a motion from the floor at this time to deal with the matter.

Audience: What day is that?

Fred Palmer: That's Monday. And to carry it out in accordance with our constitution the election will be held at the offices of our union between the hours of 8:00 and 8:00. Now we have other matters to settle, the question of giving those people who are out of town a chance to vote in this election as well as people who may be home sick on that particular day. And I think we can agree on that secondly if we can all agree first on the date of the election.

Audience: I make a motion that we accept the recommendation of the executive.

Fred Palmer: A motion to accept the recommendation for February the 16th. Is there a second there?

Audience: I'll second.

Fred Palmer: Regularly seconded. Is there any discussion?

Audience: Question.

Fred Palmer: The question being called, all in favor say aye.

[Audience responds "aye."]

Opposed, no?

[No audible "no" votes.]

Carried and so ordered.

[Side conversation]

Now, it has been suggested that in order to make it possible for the members who may be out of town to vote that an absentee ballot be mailed out to these people. It can be done in a number of methods, that being one, and another method would be the holding of an advance poll. And I think that that is a matter we should settle at this time.

Audience: *[Inaudible]*

Fred Palmer: Oh, yes, it would.

Audience: *[Inaudible]*

Fred Palmer: Well, what we would do, you see, is enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope and the ballot to be placed in this envelope with possibly the envelope marked "ballot" or "election" or something on the outside. And it would not be opened when it's received but put into the ballot box to be counted at the same time as the others.

Audience: That is where your committee – we would like tonight to look after that point – they could put that in the box themselves. They should have to open the letter themselves and put that in –

Audience: Confidential and registered?

Fred Palmer: Well, that is something for the committee to decide. Now, actually, rather than discuss this tonight possibly if we elect a committee

and have the committee look into that particular issue, that would be the simplest way to handle it.

Audience: Mr. Chairman, I just have one more question to ask.

[Laughter]

Due to the fact of what's happened tonight here, do we think *[inaudible]* are they going to give us any trouble on this walkout that's happened?

Fred Palmer: Well, we can't tell –

[Crosstalk]

Walter Doskoch: I can answer that question. Brother, I'd like to make a statement at this time. Since this problem, this fight for policy in the local union has taken place, since they will not listen to us no matter what we put into the press, you're going to expect a fight. We've got no alternative, no other choice but to fight. But we know what we're fighting for, where just conditions, security – everything that means everything to you and your family, and that's what we're going to fight for when we leave here tonight. And it's not going to be an easy fight because they're going to throw their hands in the air and say, "It's a red meeting. This was that – that was the other thing. They're not fair." We're not only going to have to live it down but we're going to have to show them that we've got guts enough and initiative enough and vision enough to build the union and build one in here. That's all for now, _____. I'll talk to you later.

[Applause]

Fred Palmer: Now, if we would like to elect a – I think a proper committee would be a five-man committee, election committee, to handle the details in regard to the election. So, I will now call for nominations for this committee.

Audience: Point of information on that particular point, who will be eligible for this committee?

Fred Palmer: Anybody.

Audience: Would I be in error in assuming that are here tonight are eligible for this committee?

Fred Palmer: The ones who have been nominated would be ineligible to be on this committee. It would have to be somebody who is not interested directly in the election.

Audience: Well, then, *[inaudible]* the ones that have been elected by acclamation, they have no bearing on the outcome that I can see of the election, so would they be eligible?

Fred Palmer: I don't think it would be advisable to have elected personnel to the executive board to sit on this committee because they may use – they could use some influence as to how the others are elected. I think that it's advisable for all concerned that the committee be composed of the members here who are not involved in this election whatsoever. Keeping that in mind we will call for nominations.

Audience: I nominate Fred Belland.

Fred Palmer: Brother Mills, would you write these down again? Brother Belland has been nominated –

Audience: Point of information again, Mr. Chairman. Do the same qualifications apply as to the two-year membership?

Fred Palmer: No. No, it's open –

Audience: Then I would nominate Brother Bevan.

Fred Palmer: Brother Bevan. Belland and Bevan.

Rob Mills: Belland?

Fred Palmer: Belland.

Rob Mills: B-E-

Fred Palmer: L-L-A-N-D.

Rob Mills: B-E-L-L-

Fred Palmer: A-N-D.

Rob Mills: A-N-D.

Fred Palmer: And Brother Bevan has been nominated. Now, we need five on this committee.

Audience: [Inaudible]

Fred Palmer: Thank you. Would you take the microphone please, brother?

Audience: I would like to nominate Brother Neufeld.

Fred Palmer: Brother Neufeld. N-E-U-F-E-L-D.

Audience: Art Berlind.

Fred Palmer: Art Berlind. Berlind. B-E-R-

Rob Mills: B-E-R-

Fred Palmer: L-I-N-D.

Rob Mills: B-E-R-L-I-N-D.

Audience: [Inaudible]

Fred Palmer: Beg pardon?

Audience: _____ Prefontaine.

Fred Palmer: Brother Prefontaine. Are there any further nominations?

Audience: I would like to nominate Brother Cunningham.

Fred Palmer: Brother Cunningham. Are there any further nominations?

Audience: I nominate Bill Duguin.

Fred Palmer: Brother Duguid. Duguid.

Audience: I'd like to nominate Alec Gnida.

Fred Palmer: Brother Do-good?

Rob Mills: D-....?

Fred Palmer: U-I-G... I don't know how you spell the rest of it. Duguid.

Audience: How do you spell your name, Bill?

Bill Duguid: D-U-G-U-I-D.

Fred Palmer: D-U-G-U-I-D. Who was the last one nominated?

Charlie White: Alec Gnida.

Fred Palmer: Brother Gnida. G-N-I-D-A.

Rob Mills: G-N-I-D-A.

Fred Palmer: Any further nominations? Any further nominations? Hearing no further nominations I'll declare nominations closed. Brother Gnida, are you prepared to stand on this committee?

Alec Gnida: Nay.

Fred Palmer: You wish to decline? Will you strike him out? Brother Duiguid?

Bill Duguid: No.

Fred Palmer: Brother Duguid declines. Brother Cunningham?

Brother Cunningham: I accept.

Fred Palmer: Accepts. Brother Prefontaine?

Brother Prefontaine: I accept.

Fred Palmer: Accepts. Brother Berlind? Do you accept?

Art Berlind: *[Inaudible]*

Fred Palmer: Brother Neufeld?

Brother Neufeld: I accept.

Fred Palmer: Accept. We've got four. Brother Bevan?

Brother Bevan: Do we have to be in the office on Mondays?

Fred Palmer: Yeah. Yes.

Brother Bevan: Then I decline. I can't afford to miss –

Fred Palmer: Brother Bevan declines.

Brother Bevan: – a day of work.

Fred Palmer: Brother Belland?

Fred Belland: *[Inaudible]*

Fred Palmer: You would do this to us. You're the fifth man.

Fred Belland: *[Inaudible]*

Fred Palmer: Brothers, I want to explain this. I'll explain this, that whoever is on this committee and loses any time off work will be paid for that time.

Fred Belland: Well, I'll accept.

Fred Palmer: You'll accept then? Thank you very much. The issue is settled. It's just a question of money, isn't it?

Charlie White: Brother Belland fills the quota, doesn't he?

Fred Palmer: Yes. We have one, two, three, four, five. And I will declare those brothers elected to this committee. Will this committee stay behind after this meeting please so we can have a few words with you and set up a meeting for tomorrow? You will have to get together and nominate a chairman, elect a chairman amongst yourselves.

[Side conversation]

Now, is there – I have nothing else on the agenda here. Is there anything else that the brothers would like to speak on at this time?

Charlie White: Brother chairman, I would just like to thank the brother that nominated me, and I can only say this, due to the fact that it's the close of the meeting, that for the effort I have put into Local 514 in the past years that I've served it, I will continue to do the same and in fact even better. Thanks, brothers.

[Applause]

Walter Doskoch: Brother chairman, I'd like to speak on behalf of everyone.

Fred Palmer: Okay –

Walter Doskoch: Instead of foreman.

Fred Palmer: I want to announce at this time we have our regular membership meeting coming up on the fourth of February at the labor center which is on 97th street – 10137, I believe – *[inaudible]* – at which time the financial report for the past year will be read out and we will certainly urge all to be present. It's a very important meeting. The notices have gone out in the mail to each member today, and that meeting again is on the fourth at 8:00. And we would like to see you all present at that time.

Now, the election itself will be officially announced by letter to all concerned. A letter will go out to every member. The committee will decide on the details as to how the people who might be out of town or might be sick will be looked after and everything will be taken care of. Yes, brother?

Audience: I believe the nominating committee should stay a couple minutes after everybody leaves so we can get together and appoint officers.

Fred Palmer: Yes, I asked for that. Anything further. If not, a motion to adjourn is in order.

Audience: Motion to adjourn, Mr. Chair.

Audience: Second.

Fred Palmer: Seconded. All in favor say aye.

[Audience votes "aye"]

Opposed

[No audible no votes.]

Carried and so ordered.

[End of audio]